

# Honduras Assistance Overview

September 2021

## CONTEXT

- Honduras is vulnerable to multiple and recurrent climate-related hazards, including droughts, floods, earthquakes, landslides, and storms. These hazards—which continue to intensify due to climate change—frequently damage crops and infrastructure and undermine livelihoods. Populations in the country's Dry Corridor, which covers much of southern and western Honduras, have faced increasing food insecurity in recent years, due in part to repeated droughts that have reduced agricultural production and incomes.
- Hurricanes Eta and Iota—which made consecutive landfall over Honduras in November 2020 and marked the first time on record that Honduras experienced more than one hurricane in a single storm season—affected more than 4.5 million people, according to the Government of Honduras and the World Bank. The two storms resulted in 99 deaths, the evacuation of more than 1 million people, and significant damage to crops.
- The negative socioeconomic effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on livelihoods have further exacerbated humanitarian needs, including for food security, health, nutrition, and protection, in many areas of Honduras. An estimated 2.8 million people—nearly one-third of the population—required humanitarian assistance as of mid-2021, the UN reports.
- The U.S. Government temporarily suspended humanitarian assistance activities in Honduras between March 2019 and May 2020. During this period, the number of people in need increased dramatically. USAID/BHA reinitiated humanitarian assistance programming in the country in June 2020, leading to the resumption of food assistance operations and other response activities to support vulnerable households in Honduras.
- On March 8, 2021, Chargé d'Affaires Colleen A. Hoey issued a disaster declaration for Honduras in response to food insecurity in the country, exacerbated by the compounding impact of natural disasters, the COVID-19 pandemic, and recurrent drought.



## ASSISTANCE

- Following Eta and Iota, USAID/BHA implementing partners provided agricultural; economic recovery; health; multipurpose cash; nutrition; protection; shelter; and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance in Cortés, Santa Bárbara, and Yoro departments, as well as Francisco Morazán, La Paz, Copán, Ocotepeque, Gracias a Dios,

Atlántida, Colón, and Lempira departments. Additionally, through the Regional Disaster Assistance Program, USAID/BHA supported the local procurement of emergency relief items.

- In response to worsening food insecurity, USAID/BHA supports relief partners to improve emergency food assistance across the country. Through the delivery of cash assistance for food and food vouchers, USAID/BHA partners are reducing food consumption gaps to prevent and address malnutrition among food-insecure households, particularly during the country’s April-to-August lean season when food is scarcest. Implementing partners are also providing agricultural support to smallholder farmers and other agriculture-dependent households to ensure appropriate and timely inputs for planting and growing seasons—such as farming tools, fertilizer, and seeds—to improve food security. Additionally, USAID/BHA partners are training smallholder farmers to implement climate-resilient farming practices such as diversification of crops, drip irrigation, and soil management to increase crop production and better protect against future climate shocks.
- USAID/BHA provided funding to address COVID-19-related health needs in Honduras. Through the distribution of hygiene supplies, support for improved infection prevention and control measures and installation of handwashing stations at health facilities, and the operation of risk communication and community engagement activities, USAID/BHA partners aimed to mitigate coronavirus transmission risks.
- With support from USAID/BHA, partners are helping vulnerable households restore livelihoods, increase financial resilience, and mitigate the impact of future shocks. This assistance includes the creation of community savings and loans groups, the provision of financial literacy courses, and the resumption and expansion of income-generating activities.
- USAID/BHA funds early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) activities that focus on building long-term resilience and response capacity in Francisco Morazán, Intibucá, La Paz, and Lempira departments. USAID/BHA is increasing communities’ disaster resilience in Honduras’ capital city of Tegucigalpa by bolstering local disaster preparedness and response capacity, while rehabilitating and strengthening housing and WASH infrastructure. USAID/BHA is also supporting efforts to increase food security among drought-affected households, reaching more than 170 communities in Honduras’ Dry Corridor with activities to build improved agricultural systems to better manage risk related to drought and rainfall variability.



USAID/BHA partner the Adventist and Development Relief Agency (ADRA) distributes food in Honduras in June. Photo Credit: U.S. ADRA

USAID/BHA Funding in Honduras <sup>1</sup>			
	Emergency	ER4	TOTAL
FY 2020	\$13,000,000	3,000,000	\$16,000,000
FY 2021	\$80,725,207	\$2,110,000	\$82,835,207

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 17, 2021. Totals include estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.